

**OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

FOR

**Year Ending 31st December, 1950**



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### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

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*Medical Officer of Health :*

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE, M.D., D.P.H.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector :*

L. R. CHAPMAN, M.R.S.I.,  
Cert. Meat and Foods R.S.I.

*Engineer and Surveyor :*

L. G. BAILEY, F.F.S.

*Assistant Sanitary Inspector,*


L. E. LETHBRIDGE, Cert. R.S.I.,  
Cert. Meat and Foods R.S.I.

*Clerks of the Department :*

I. G. CANN.

T. MARSHALL.

Miss M. BRAY.



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MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. WONNACOTT AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1950.

The general health of the district was average for the neighbourhood but once again infantile paralysis broke out to the number of nine cases.

SECTION A.

There was an increase in the number of births and the corrected birth rate is higher than that for England Wales as a whole. The deaths showed no change but the corrected death rate is slightly below the national figure.

A general statistical inference can be drawn from the accompanying tables.

General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	132,514
Population—1931 Census	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13,020
Estimated Home Population—Mid 1950	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,340
Number of Inhabited Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,835
Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£54,253
Product of Penny Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£222
Loan Debt	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£235,276

Vital Statistics.

			<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Live Births	.....	.....	83	93	176	
Legitimate	.....	.....	75	84		
Illegitimate	.....	.....	8	9		
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	.....				14.3	<i>England &amp; Wales</i> 15.8
Corrected Birth Rate	.....	.....	.....		17.2	.
Still Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births					16.8	0.37



	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Deaths .....	94	83	177	
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population .....			14.3	11.6
Corrected Death Rate .....			11.0	
Deaths from Maternal Causes .....			Nil.	
Maternal Mortality .....			Nil.	0.86
Deaths of Infants under 1 year .....			5	
Infant Mortality .....			28.4	29.8

The Chief causes of death were :—

#### INFECTIOUS CAUSES :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	3
Other forms of tuberculosis .....	1
Influenza .....	3
Poliomyelitis .....	1
Tetanus .....	1

#### GENERAL CAUSES :

Cerebral Vascular Disease .....	41
Heart Disease .....	31
Cancer .....	25
Bronchitis .....	13
Senility .....	13
Nephritis .....	9
Arteriosclerosis .....	4
Disease of the Prostate .....	4
Pneumonia .....	3
Asthma .....	2
Diabetes .....	1
Gastric Ulcer .....	1
Goitre .....	1
Suicide .....	3
Accidental .....	5
Other Causes .....	7

#### INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR :

Prematurity .....	3
Pneumonia .....	1
Bronchitis .....	1
Total .....	<u>177</u>

### Age of Death Table.

<i>Age at Death.</i>				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Infants under 1 year	.....	.....	.....	4	1
1— 5	.....	.....	.....	1	1
5—15	.....	.....	.....	1	1
15—25	.....	.....	.....	1	—
25—35	.....	.....	.....	2	1
35—45	.....	.....	.....	4	3
45—55	.....	.....	.....	3	3
55—65	.....	.....	.....	9	8
65—75	.....	.....	.....	24	22
75 & Over	.....	.....	.....	45	43
				—	—
				94	83
				—	—

### SECTION B.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES.

There was no change in the health services during the year.

The vicissitudes of the National Health Service appear to be settling and the chief trouble for the future appears to be one of economics. However, it is becoming apparent that having the medical services divided into three water tight compartments is not likely to give the best results and a feeling is becoming general that some integrating machinery is needed.

*National Assistance Act 1948—Section 47 :* Action was considered in several cases under this section but in each case the question was resolved without recourse to the Courts.

### SECTION C.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

##### Water Supply.

The North Devon Water Board have now taken over the duties of water suppliers to the District and it will be seen from the accompanying table that many samples for analysis have been taken with generally very poor results, chiefly from village wells :—

<i>Number of samples taken by N.D.W.B. Good Fair Bad</i>				
Bacteriological Examination of Water	.....	144	53	21 70

This information comes as no shock as it has been known for years but action was impossible as no alternative supplies were available. It is to be hoped that as the Board's mains extend a pure and copious supply of water will be available for all. I would point out here that the Council are still the responsible Authority for the administration of the Public Health and Water Acts in respect of those sections dealing with water apart from the Board's actual possessions.

The following operations have been undertaken to improve supplies already in existence, prior to the Board taking over :—

*Sticklepath* : Beacuse of inadequate flow, investigations revealed general corrosion of certain iron branch mains. An extensive overhaul was put in hand and badly corroded pipes replaced by asbestos cement mains. Upon completion of the works a considerable increase in flow was noted, and satisfaction given to occupiers of houses and standpipes on the lower levels.

*South Zeal* : It has been necessary to increase the storage facilities on Ramsley Common to enable properties at the higher levels to be assured of a constant supply, when the draw off at supply to the lower levels is such as to give an intermittent existing storage tank. A new tank capable of holding an additional 3,000 gallons has been constructed making a total potential storage of 7,000 gallons. No further complaints were received following the completion of the work.

*Analysis of Water Supplies (Public and Private)* :—The following are the results of water samples taken during the year :—

		<i>Number of samples taken.</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed.</i>
Bacteriological Examination of Water	.....	15	7	8
Chemical Analysis of Water	.....	3	2	1
		—	—	—
		18	9	9
		—	—	—

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

New Works and Maintenance.

*North Tawton.*

Owing to the insanitary condition of the cess pool drainage of the Barton Hill Estate a part of the proposed new scheme for North Tawton was constructed. This involved the laying of 560 yards of 7-inch sewer and the building of 8 manholes. This new sewer enabled the drainage of 31 properties to connect en route and also takes in another outfall discharging crude sewage into open gutters. Additional works in connecting the Barton Hill sewer and abating the other outfall nuisances involved a total cost of over £850.



### *Sticklepath.*

To abate a serious public health nuisance from crude sewage flowing through open channels and thence to the River Taw our new sedimentation tanks with a filter and 84 yards of 9-inch and 140 yards of 6-inch sewer were constructed. Provision has been made to connect most of the remainder of the village to these tanks, as and when circumstances permit, and sufficient land acquired and fenced to allow for a complete sewage scheme.

### *Sandy Park, Drewsteignton.*

Authority to proceed with our scheme has been received from the Ministry of Health and a tender of £3,517 accepted. Work has commenced on the construction of the works.

### *South Seal Sewage Works.*

Completed drawings providing for duplication of some units of the sewage works and improving of others have been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. The need for this work is made more urgent by the grossly overloaded system coupled with the generally defective and leaking condition of the sedimentation tanks. The estimated cost is just over £5,000.

### *Zeal Head—Ford Cross—Housing Site—South Zeal.*

Our completed drawings and all data, has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for loan sanction, and the work estimated to cost £2500 can be put in hand immediately improvements to the works are completed.

### *Chagford.*

Owing to the recurring nuisances at the Orchard Meadow outfall and also the overloaded condition of the septic tank drainage of the Modern Secondary School, it has been decided that our interim scheme previously prepared cannot cope with the problem. Thus the Engineers complete scheme for the disposal of sewerage involving the construction of new work has been submitted to the Ministry of Health at an estimated cost of £35,000.

### *Exbourne.*

An alternative scheme to that first prepared has now been considered in conjunction with the Consulting Engineers and work on the drawings is in hand. The alternative scheme will be a considerable reduction on the original scheme.

### *Jacobstowe.*

Our outline scheme at an estimated cost of £3,300 together with a report on the insanitary conditions in the village, recently provided with main water, has been forwarded to the Ministry of Health for consideration.

### *Hatherleigh.*

Because of serious flooding of properties on the south side of the Market Square, our outline scheme has been prepared to provide a new 9-inch combined sewer, and submitted to the Devon County Council requesting that a grant be considered. The primary object of the new sewer is to abate nuisances from surface and storm water which is already connected to the existing system. The estimated cost is £600.

### *General.*

Improvements to existing sewers and small extensions have been carried out at Bridestowe, Broadwoodkelly, Belstone, and Northlew. Statutory notices have been served on an owner of 14 properties at Bridestowe to connect to the sewer, thereby abolishing offensive privies at present being used and providing a proper means for the disposal of waste water.

### **Future Sewerage Programme.**

From this district at Prewley and Belstone will be drawn the vast bulk of the water needed to carry out schemes in hand and initiated by the North Devon Water Board. Trunk mains at present in course of construction will pass through or near the majority of our parishes. Consideration must therefore be given and directed towards the provision of suitable schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal, and to achieve this purpose the Council are giving attention to a programme based on a priority basis. The undermentioned ten parishes were considered by the sewerage Standing Sub-Committee and the Report received by the Council as a basis for future action.

<i>Western Area.</i>	<i>Eastern Area</i>
Monkokehampton	Spreyton
Northlew	Whiddon Down
Sourton	Belstone
Bratton Clovelly	Sampford Courtenay
Highampton (joint scheme with Holsworthy R.D.C.)	Drewsteignton

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following table sets out the visits, etc., carried out by the Inspectors during the year :—

<i>Type of Premises.</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>No. of Notices served.</i>	<i>No. of Notices complied with.</i>
Houses inspected .....	628	112	96
Houses re-inspected .....	234	—	—
Premises other than houses and not mentioned below .....	44	19	16
Food Premises .....	64	5	4
Refuse Tips .....	60	—	—
Public Conveniences .....	80	—	—
Public Water Supplies .....	133	—	—
Private Water Supplies .....	78	8	6
Drainage .....	128	—	—
Sewerage .....	313	—	—
Infectious Diseases .....	20	—	—
Petroleum Acts .....	10	—	—
Miscellaneous Visits not classified .....	81	—	—
<i>Totals</i>	1873	144	122

### Rat Infestation.

#### *First Inspections and Re-inspections :*

Private Houses .....	957 visits
Business Premises .....	430 visits
Tips .....	145 visits
Salvage Stores .....	10 visits
Sewers and Sewage Outfalls .....	613 visits

2,155

*Types of poison used :* Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic and Red Squill.

*Total number of baiting points* ..... 18,140

*Total number of dead rats recovered after treatments* 2,800

In support of the work carried out by the Rodent Operator, recent inspection of Bridestowe Refuse Dump during clearing up operations revealed fifty dead rats under a sheet of corrugated iron. Treatment had been very recently carried out in and around the dump, and there was no evidence of any infestation.



## Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Extensions of the existing collection areas have been arranged as follows :—

*Meeth* : Once a quarter commencing on the 27th July, 1950, 26th October, 1950, 18th January, 1951, April 26th, 1951.

*Highampton* : Fortnightly commencing on Tuesday, 2nd January, 1951.

The general advance towards the collection of refuse in most of the built up areas continues with the resultant rise in costs. It is unfortunate that the open lorry method of collection still persists. To provide properly covered vehicles during collection and transport to refuse dumps, beyond the resources of the various contractors, may require a reconsideration of the scheme prepared by the Sanitary Department in 1948.

## Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

The administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948, in its application to the Rural District, has been carried out and regular inspections made. The subjoined tables set these out in compliance with the Statutory Form submitted for completion :

### 1. INSPECTIONS.

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	54	60	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .....	—	—	—	—
<i>Total</i> .....	54	60	—	—



## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars</i>  (1)	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i> (6)
	<i>Found</i> (2)	<i>Remedied</i> (3)	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector</i> (4)	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i> (5)	
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding ....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ....	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ....	2	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	3	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ....	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Total</i> ....	12	10	—	—	—

### SECTION D.

#### HOUSING.

During the year 196 houses have been inspected in connection with the Rural Housing Survey, and these are Classified in the following groups :—

Houses fit in all respects .....	15
Houses with minor defects only .....	61
Houses requiring structural alterations or repair .....	105
Houses requiring re-conditioning .....	3
Houses requiring demolition or replacement .....	12
	<hr/>
	196

Total number of houses inspected ..... 1,501

Statutory action taken under the Housing Act, 1936, has resulted in the representation of 5 properties considered to be incapable of repair at a reasonable cost. A closing order under Section 11 was made in the case of a part of one property, in the other cases, owners gave undertakings that properties would not be used again for human habitation until rendered fit.

The general housing programme has been characterised by stasis due to multiferous factors but highly unsatisfactory in the aggregate. As I have pointed out many a time, there is no inclination for your population to increase, in fact the recent census figures show a net decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the past 20 years. For this reason the siting of new houses should be done with a view, in the long run, of eliminating obsolete unfit properties, and thus gradually improving the general housing standard.

Mr. Bailey, Engineer and Surveyor, has submitted the following general report on the work of that department during the year :—

“Contractual difficulties have again this year prevented the Council’s building programme being fully developed especially in regard to Whiddon Down (10 dwellings), Monkokehampton (2), South Zeal (4) and Chagford (4), plans for which have for some time been prepared and tendering negotiations entered into.

Even where tenders have been accepted it has not been possible in some cases to obtain expeditious handling of the contracts by builders concerned, and it has generally been found that there is a considerable time lag after the contractual completion date to when completion is actually given. Neither has it been found possible to enforce the periods laid down in the Contracts, builders being able to quote difficulties relating to shortages of materials, weather conditions and other reasons over which this department has no control.

With all these difficulties, however, it is pleasing to note that this has been a record year for house building within the Rural District, the following dwellings having been completed and occupied and the buildings being of a very high standard.

Chagford, Orchard Meadow Estate	6 Traditional Houses.
North Tawton, Essington Estate	8 Traditional Houses.
Sampford Courtenay, Tongue End	2 Traditional Houses.
Sourton	6 Traditional Houses.
South Tawton, The Croft	4 Non-Traditional Houses.
	2 Bungalows.
<hr/>	
<i>Grand Total</i>	28
<hr/>	



Of all the schemes, the question of house building at Hatherleigh has been most controversial, especially in regard to non-acceptance by the Council of a tender for the erection of non-traditional houses, and it is disappointing in this instance that, following the announcement of the Minister's decision to allow the erection of traditional houses to proceed, a statement should have been issued and published concerning the Council's attitude in regard to the non-traditional tender without setting out the real issue leading to its rejection.

This issue was perfectly clear, and concerned the inclusion in the proposed contract documents of a schedule of basic prices which was not considered realistic when related to current rates for the materials so scheduled, and which, if accepted would have resulted in final costs being far in excess of the figures submitted. When approached in this matter, the proposed Contractors declined to amend the tender in respect of an up-to-date schedule of the grounds that the original had been accepted by the Ministry of Health, and was appropriate to the Region, and it was thus not possible to vary tendering procedure to accommodate the Council's requirements.

Enquiries of the Ministry confirmed this position, and in the absence of official information as to what the likely additional costs would be your Surveyor could only provide his own estimate, and accordingly suggested that excess costs might be £300 per house. He held, and expressed the opinion that in order to provide for equitable tendering between traditional and non-traditional building, contractors for traditional houses should either be permitted to submit an identical schedule of basic prices, or that every tender should be on the basis of current rates, with fluctuations being covered by the appropriate clause of the Contract.

Although much has been said to support claims of speed generally in non-traditional building it has not been in the practical experience of this Department, where when the superstructure of the house has been erected, the roof, floors, partitions and other fittings have at most been normal to traditional types.

Work is now proceeding in the erection of the 14 traditional houses originally planned for the scheme, although these have been somewhat modified in order to achieve a price acceptable to the Ministry.

Plans are almost complete for 11 bungalows at Folly Gate, where it is hoped that the existing hutments can be demolished, and occupants re-housed prior to the actual building operations.

Tenders have been obtained for the erection of six houses at Belstone and it is anticipated that all negotiations for acceptance will be completed by the time the site is available.

Approval in principle has already been given for re-building at New Street, Chagford, and the scheme now only awaits a decision of the owners of the site.

North Tawton. Two houses still remain to be built of the original 16, for which the Council had accepted a tender, but were prevented from completion due to contractual difficulties. Efforts are being made to secure the services of another builder to carry out this work.

The building of the new Council Offices at "Oaklands," Okehampton, proceeds satisfactorily, and it is hoped that completion will be given towards the end of 1951. This building will accommodate all present departments of the Council, and in addition will provide a sizeable Chamber and space for a Car Park.

### **Planning.**

During the year, plans have been submitted and approved for the following totals :—

Conversions and adaptations	.....	101
Farm Buildings	.....	53
New Properties	.....	51
		<hr/>
		205
		<hr/>

In each case, all necessary inspections under Planning and as related to the Council's Building Byelaws have been carried out.

Plans disapproved by the Council total 4.

### **Housing Maintenance.**

Housing Maintenance follows the lines indicated in the previous report, and externally the houses are being brought into a good state of structural repair, whilst as much attention as is possible continues to be given to replacements of fittings for which the Council is responsible."



# COUNCIL HOUSES IN THE OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT, 1950.

<i>Parish.</i>		<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Number of Houses</i>	<i>Total No. in Parish.</i>
Beaworthy	.....	Black Hill	2	
		Patchacott	2	4
Belstone	.....	Tor Down	6	6
Bondleigh	.....	Bondleigh	4	4
Bratton Clovelly	.....	Bratton Clovelly	3	3
Bridestowe	.....	Princess Elizabeth Terrace	8	8
Broadwoodkelly	.....	Broadwoodkelly	2	
		Splatt	1	3
Chagford	.....	Dennis Park	33	
		Biera View	8	
		Orchard Meadow	25	
		"Monte Rosa"	5	71
Drewsteignton	.....	Lamb's Park	4	
		Knoll Lane	4	
		Whiddon Down	8	16
Exbourne	.....	Cawsand View	2	2
Germansweek	.....	—	—	—
Gidleigh	.....	—	—	—
Hatherleigh	.....	Moor View Terrace	12	
		Higher Street	6	
		Normandy Place	4	22
Highampton	.....	High View	2	2
Iddesleigh	.....	Iddesleigh	2	2
Inwardleigh	.....	Folly Gate	6	6
Jacobstowe	.....	—	—	—
Meeth	.....	Station Road	10	10
Monkokehampton	.....	Monkokehampton	—	—
Northlew with Ashbury	.....	Northlew	4	4
North Tawton	.....	Barton Hill	16	
		Fore Street	8	
		Essington	14	38
Okehampton Hamlets	.....	Chichacott	4	
		Peacewater	2	6
Sampford Courtenay	.....	Village	4	
		Station	4	
		Tongue End	2	10
Sourton	.....	Village	10	
		Sourton Down	6	16
South Tawton	.....	Hill Crest	6	
		Cross Park	10	
		The Croft	18	34
Spreyton	.....	Spreyton	6	6
Throwleigh	.....	Middle Clampitts	4	
		Wonson	2	6

# HOUSING PROGRAMME

PARISH.	No. of Houses Commenced during 1950 and completed before June, 1951.	No. of Houses in course of erection at June, 1951.	Sites Selected	Sites Approved	Layout Plans Approved	House Plans Approved	Number of Houses Proposed for 1951 Housing Programme	Anticipated Com- mencement during 1951.	Anticipated Com- pletion during 1951	Proposed Future Development to Close Site.	Ordnance Survey Location.
BELSTONE (T) ....	—	—	*	*	*	*	6 (T)	6 (T)	6 (T)	—	O.S. 233
CHAGFORD Orchard Meadow New Street ....	6 —	— —	* *	* *	* *	* *	4 Bungs. 3 (T)	4 Bungs. 3 (T)	4 Bungs. —	— —	O.S. 586 & 696
DREWSTEIGNTON, Whiddon Down	—	—	*	*	*	*	2 Bungs. 8 (T)	2 Bungs. 8 (T)	2 Bungs. 8 (T)	—	O.S. 449 & 495
HATHERLEIGH ....	—	14 (T)	*	*	*	*	14 (T)	14 (T)	14 (T)	—	O.S. 635 & 638
INWARDLEIGH, Folly Gate ....	—	—	*	*	*	—	11 Bungs.	11 Bungs.	11 Bungs.	—	O.S. 456
MONKOKEHAMPTON ....	—	—	*	*	*	*	2 (T)	2 (T)	2 (T)	—	O.S. 140
NORTH TAWTON, Essington ....	8 (T)	—	*	*	*	*	2 (T)	2 (T)	2 (T)	—	O.S. 582
SAMPFORD COURTENAY, Tongue End	2 (T)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	O.S. 309
SOURTON ....	6 (T)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	O.S. 552
SOUTH TAWTON, The Croft ....	4 (N.T.) 2 Bungs.	2 Bungs.	*	*	*	*	4 Bungs.	4 Bungs.	4 Bungs.	—	O.S.2365
Totals ....	4 (N.T.) 22 (T) 2 Bungs.	14 (T) 2 Bungs.	—	—	—	—	35 (T) 21 Bungs.	35 (T) 21 Bungs.	32 (T) 21 Bungs.	—	

T=Traditional

N.T.=Non-Traditional.

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

It is regrettable that your Council have not seen fit to adopt the new model bye-laws relating to the handling of food and supervision of food premises, as careful attention to food hygiene is one of the most potent means of preventing disease.

#### **Food Premises.**

Regular inspections of food preparing premises continue to be made, and informal action has only been necessary. After the discussions with the owner of a large bakehouse in the district, plans are now in course of preparation for a complete re-building on modern hygienic lines.

#### **Food Poisoning.**

No case of food poisoning was notified by medical practitioners during the year.

#### **Inspection of Food and Foodstuffs.**

Quantities of unsound foods inspected during the year have resulted in 3 cwts. 1 qr. 16 lbs. of miscellaneous foodstuffs being voluntarily surrendered by owners and certified as unfit for human consumption. Altogether a total of 44 certificates were issued to enable tradesmen to obtain replacements from the appropriate quarters.

#### **Meat.**

The meat supply continued to come from the Tavistock Abattoir and was duly inspected there.

By permission of the Tavistock Urban District Council the following table of inspections is submitted :



# CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle, excluding cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known) ....	1717	1102	2370	7958	516
Number Inspected ....	1717	1102	2370	7958	516
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</i> Whole carcasses condemned ....	15	73	88	118	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	867	664	22	1813	51
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	51.36%	66.88%	4.64%	25.41%	11.22%
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i> Whole carcasses condemned	11	46	8	—	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	67	199	—	—	27
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ....	4.54%	22.23%	.34%	—	6.2%

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Apart from poliomyelitis, the infectious disease incidence during the year was minimal.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified by medical practitioners :—

Whooping Cough .....	11
Pneumonia .....	9
Poliomyelitis .....	9
Erysipelas .....	7
Scarlet Fever .....	5
Measles .....	2
Dysentery .....	1



The following cases of infectious disease were notified from the schools in the district.

Chicken Pox	.....	.....	.....	37
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	12
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	4
German Measles	.....	.....	.....	1
Impetigo	.....	.....	.....	1
Ringworm	.....	.....	.....	1
Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	1

*Diphtheria* : No case of this disease occurred during the year but I have reason to believe that the immunisation percentage is steadily declining, so the disease may be with us again before long.

*Poliomyelitis* : Nine cases of this disease were notified during the year with one death.

The following table sets out the date of notification, place, sex, and age of patient :—

27. 1.50	.....	Whiddon Down	.....	Female	aged 5 years.
1. 8.50	.....	Sticklepath	.....	Female	aged 10 years.
31. 8.50	.....	Spreyton	.....	Male	aged 3 years.
27.10.50	.....	North Tawton	.....	Male	aged 4 years.
2.12.50	.....	Bridestowe	.....	Male	aged 5 years.
5.12.50	.....	South Zeal	.....	Male	aged 1½ years.
13.12.50	.....	South Zeal	.....	Female	aged 6 years.
22.12.50	.....	South Tawton	.....	Male	aged 14½ years.
25.12.50	.....	South Tawton	.....	Female	aged 16 years.

Extensive enquiries were made to relate the cases, particularly those occurring towards the close of the year, without result.

A particularly interesting case is the one of a boy at Bridestowe. This child was an intimate contact with several cases in the severe epidemic in this village in the previous year but he did not develop the disease. Yet in the succeeding year he became one solitary victim. This is the kind of occurrence which makes investigation of this condition entirely baffling.

It will be noted that all but one of the cases occurred in the Eastern parishes.

The present position regarding the outbreak is :—

One died.  
Two severely paralysed.  
Four with varying degrees of paralysis.  
Two completely recovered.

*Tuberculosis* : 9 new cases of Pulmonary and 1 new case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. 3 deaths were recorded from the former cause and 1 from the latter.

At the end of the year 90 cases of tuberculosis remained on the register as follows :—

<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>	
Males	36	Males	8
Females	41	Females	5

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In conclusion I would thank my colleagues for their assistance in preparing this report and the Council for the ready hearing I have received at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT WATER SUPPLIES

PARISH	Whether water supply satis.: (a) in quality (b) in quantity	Examinations made	Evidence of contamination	Action taken	Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains : (a) direct to the houses (b) by means of standpipes			
					No. Dwelling Hses		Total Population	
					Main	Stand-pipe	Main	Stand-pipe
ASHBURY	Private wells only Some wells polluted Inadequate in quantity	No piped supply	Well water plumbo-solvent. No action taken during year	Nil	—	—	—	—
BEAWORTHY	Private wells only Inadequate	No piped supply	No analyses during year	Nil	—	—	—	—
BELSTONE	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine examination	Nil	chlorination	71	—	252	—
BONDLEIGH	Wells only (a) Surface contamination in some cases (b) Unsatisfactory	Bacteriological Satisfactory	Yes, in the past	Public well repaired Pump mended	—	—	—	—
BRATTON CLOVELLY	Wells (a) Satisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Routine examination	Source improved, still doubtful	General supervision	4	36	15	139
BRIDESTOWE	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine examination	Nil	Nil	74	—	431	—
BROADWOODKELLY	Wells only (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Inspection only	Yes	Major works commenced (see report)	—	—	—	—
CHAGFORD	Piped supply from surface springs (a) Doubtful (b) Satisfactory	Analysis satisfactory	Yes, slight	Chlorination	360	—	1218	—
DREWSTEIGNTON	Water from Quarry (a) Doubtful (b) Satisfactory	Major works undertaken to remove contamination	Yes, but dealt with	Chlorination	80	—	288	—
EXBOURNE	Supply from Borehole (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine	No	Nil	69	—	212	—
GERMANSWEEK	Private wells only (a) Doubtful (b) Doubtful	Nil	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
GIDLEIGH	Private supplies only	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—
HATHERLEIGH	Water from Springs (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Nil	Failed Bacteriological tests	Clorinationn	256	—	877	—
HIGHAMPTON	Private supplies Two Public Wells	Nil	No	Nil	—	—	—	—
IDDESLEIGH	Two Public Wells (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine	Yes, but dealt with	New lining	—	—	—	—
JACOBSTOWE	Piped Supply from Borehole Private Wells only	Nil	No	Nil	18	—	85	—
MEETH	Two Public Wells (a) Doubtful (b) Doubtful	Routine	Yes, but dealt with	New lining	—	—	—	—
MONKOKEHAMPTON	Piped Supply from Borehole Public Wells (a) Satisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Nil	No	Nil	20	—	85	—
NORTHLEW	Public Well (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine	No	Improved supply	—	—	—	—
NORTH TAWTON	Water from Springs Borehole into sandstone (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine	No	Nil	302	—	1012	—
OKEHAMPTON HAMLETS	Private Wells only	Nil	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
SAMPFORD COURTENAY	Partly piped (a) Satisfactory (b) Improved	Routine	No	Extensions made	30	36	122	110
SOURTON	Private Wells only (a) Unsatisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Routine	No	Nil	—	—	—	—
SOUTH TAWTON	Upland Springs (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine	Plumbo-solvency	Chlorination	240	—	815	—
SPREYTON	Wells only (a) Satisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Bacteriological test unsatisfactory	No	Nil	—	—	—	—
THROWLEIGH	Private Supplies Piped Supply in hand	Routine	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—
INWARDLEIGH	Private Supplies (a) Unsatisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Nil	Nil	Chlorination	—	—	—	—







